

b.) Remarks

Claim 1 has been amended incorporating the subject matter of claims 2, 5 and 13. The remaining claims have either been cancelled as superfluous or amended to maintain their dependency and/or antecedent basis. The subject matter of the amendment is found in the specification as filed, *inter alia*, at page 29, lines 17-24, page 30, lines 3-7 and from page 30, line 21 to page 31, line 7. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required that Applicants elect for prosecution one of the inventions of:

Group I (Claims 1-13), drawn to a method for stabilization of a diarylvinylene compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt; or

Group 2 (Claims 21-26), drawn to a solid formulation comprising a xanthine derivative represented by formula (IA).

In response, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, namely Claims 1-13, without traverse.

Also, the Examiner requested that Applicants select for initial search a preferred species and identify the claims encompassing the selected species. In response, Applicants hereby select (E)-8-(3,4-dimethoxystyryl)-1,3-diethyl-7-methyl-3,7-dihydro-1H-purine-2,6-dione represented by formula (IB) in claim 7. Claims 1 and 6-13 encompass the selected species.

Entry hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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